

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 06847 021614Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 SSO-00 /019 W

-----052177 021619Z /45

O 021507Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8730

UNCLAS LAGOS 6847

E.O. 11652 : NA

TAGS : BEXP, BTRA, NI

SUBJ : NIGERIAN-AMERICAN TRADE DELEGATION

REF: A) STATE 139307: B) LAGOS 6777 AND PREVIOUS

1. CONFIRMED AIR RESERVATIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS: DEPART LAGOS SWISSAIR 267 ON JUNE 10 TO ZURICH; DEPART ZURICH SWISSAIR 800 ON JUNE 10 TO LONDON; DEPART LONDON PAN AM 101 ON JUNE 11 TO NEW YORK AT 1100; DEPART NEW YORK UNITED AIRLINES 003 ON JUNE 14 AT 1050 TO CHICAGO; DEPART CHICAGO UNITED AIRLINES 103 ON JUNE 17 AT 1010 TO LOS ANGELES; DEPART LOS ANGELES CONTINENTAL AIRLINES 950 ON JUNE 21 AT 1210 TO HOUSTON.

RESERVATIONS FROM HOUSTON-ATLANTA-WASHINGTON AS PER REF B ARE BEING ALTERED AND WILL BE CABLED EARLY MONDAY MORNING. WE HAVE SUGGESTED THAT FLIGHT LEAVE HOUSTON ON AFTERNOON OF JUNE 25 FOR ATLANTA AND DEPART ATLANTA ON AFTERNOON OF JUNE 28 FOR WASHINGTON. PAYMENTS FOR ALL FLIGHTS HAVE BEEN PAID IN FULL.

2. OBVIOUSLY THERE IS A TREMENDOUS COMMUNICATIONS GAP BETWEEN SWISSAIR LAGOS AND SWISSAIR NEW YORK. NIGERIA'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE REGULATIONS SAY THAT NAIRA DEPOSITS ON HOTEL RESERVATIONS CANNOT BE TRANSFERRED THROUGH THE CENTRAL BANK BY AIRLINES. THE NIGERIAN-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HAS AGREED TO MAKE DEPOSIT FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS FOR THE DELEGATION BUT SWISSAIR LAGOS SAYS THAT SWISSAIR NEW YORK

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QUOTE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT IT'S TALKING ABOUT UNQUOTE. THE NIGERIAN-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CANNOT MAKE DOLLAR DEPOSITS TO SWISSAIR LAGOS, AS THIS IS ALSO A VIOLATION OF NIGERIA'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE DECREE. MONEY CANNOT BE TRANSMITTED AND FORWARDED TO CENTRAL BANK FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS THROUGH SWISSAIR. MOREOVER, PAN AM REP SAYS THEY CANNOT MAKE DOLLAR DEPOSITS TO HOTELS FOR NAIRA GUARANTEE. SWISSAIR LAGOS HAS

GIVEN GUARANTEE TO SWISSAIR NEW YORK, SAYS THEIR REP, SEGUN
OKI. THIS IS ALSO TRUE OF GROUND TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS,
SAYS SWISSAIR REP IN LAGOS.

3. COULD DEPARTMENT PLEASE RELAY THIS MESSAGE AND SEE EXACTLY
WHAT SOLUTION CAN BE DEVELOPED.
WYMAN

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